

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

[0029] The present invention relates to the discovery that LEF1 is a new type of target gene in that it is ectopically activated in colon cancer. The pattern of this ectopic expression is unusual because it derives from selective activation of a promoter for a full-length LEF1 isoform that binds β -catenin, but not a second, intronic promoter that drives expression of a dominant negative isoform. β -catenin/TCF complexes can activate the promoter for full-length LEF1 suggesting that in cancer, high levels of these complexes misregulate transcription to favor a positive feedback loop for Wnt signaling by inducing selective expression of full length, β -catenin sensitive forms of LEF/TCFs. The invention provides diagnostic and therapeutic methodologies based on the discoveries described herein.